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# HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "Rags to Riches"...Information from the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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From rags to riches may sound like the Horatio Alger story. But Horatio doesn't have a copyright on the idea. No indeed. Each year, thousands of thrifty homemakers go him one better. They may not progress from poverty to wealth, but they do turn their rags into at least sizable sums for themselves. And this is open season for the turning.

Maybe it's the warmth of the late summer sun. Or maybe it's the welter of fall fashions we see. Again, it could be second nature -- instinct. Anyway, something at this time of year sends us women scurrying to the household storage rooms, storage closets, cedar chests, dresser drawers or what have you to pull out all the family's old woolen clothes -- those coats and suits that have reached the limbo of "hopelessly-out-of-date-yet-too-good-to-throw-away." Don't think for a minute the war years of making it do, wearing it out and giving what we can't wear out to war relief has left all the storage places bare either. They still yield a wealth of possibilities when it comes to make overs.

So about this time of year, we all get out the old clothes thinking, "I ought to do something about these."

From this point on, however, different women do different things. Some look at the clothes and quickly put them back into storage as they pass out on their way shopping. Others leave the clothes out for ten or twelve days while they speculate on the possibilities. Then they, too, pack the woolen goods away...carefully...so they'll have something to pull out and look at next year.

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But many homemakers mean business when they get out the family's old coats and suits. They usually have a particular article of clothing in mind--a suit for themselves, a jumper for sister, an overcoat for Bobby -- something.

It's for these homemakers that the clothing specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture prepared a bulletin on make overs from coats and suits. In the bulletin, the specialists start out by explaining that stunning apparel isn't made from old clothes in one easy jump. Beginner's luck never pulled anybody through in remodelling. Because it's a job that calls for ingenuity as well as a good hand at needle and sewing machine.

They remind us that if a garment can be worn as is, making it over will simply amount to gilding the lily. And no busy homemaker has time to bother with that now.

Also...granted that the coat or suit in question was lovely back in 1934...it may have served through '34, '35, '36, '37 and so on until it's now a mere shadow of it's former self -- tattered and threadbare. And worn out material just isn't worth time and effort to make it into some other size or shape.

However, if the material is still good, the garment unwearable in it's present shape and the homemaker willing and able to remake it...then the chances of her saving...say from five to twenty dollars...are good. And whoever undertakes to make over anything will find the hints on how to do it in the USDA clothing specialists' bulletin very helpful indeed.

The bulletin tells how to get an old garment into shape for remodelling; how to choose a pattern to fit the cloth; how to get around trouble spots in the material; and how to decide on what sort of thing can be reconverted into what.

You can get a copy of this bulletin, free, by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. I'll repeat the address. It's United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Just ask for the bulletin..."Make Overs from Coats and Suits."

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